Pesticide Surveillance and Research: Models and Lessons for the Development of State, Local and National Tracking Systems

Plenary and Concurrent Session Abstract Form

Moderator:

Ruth Allen, PhD, Environmental Epidemiologist, United States Environmental Protection Agency

Presenters:

Geoffrey M. Calvert, MD, MPH, Technical Advisor, SENSOR-Pesticides, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, CDC
Tracking Acute Pesticide-Related Illness in the USA: The SENSOR-Pesticides Program

Michael C.R. Alavanja, DrPH, Co-Principal Investigator of the Agricultural Health Study, National Cancer Institute, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics
The Agricultural Health Study Cohort: Use of Agricultural Pesticides and Associated Health Risks with an Emphasis on Lung Cancer

Daniel E. Kass, MSPH, Environmental Public Health Tracking Director, Division of Environmental Disease Prevention, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Linking Pesticide Hazard, Exposure and Health Outcomes Data in New York City – Early Report on the Development of a Tracking System

Session Abstract:

This session provides an overview of three types of efforts to better understand exposures to, and health effects associated with, commonly used pesticides. A national acute pesticide poisoning surveillance effort (SENSOR-pesticides) will be described along with its utility for characterizing new and emerging pesticide hazards, as well as estimating the magnitude and trend of acute pesticide poisoning. A multi-disciplinary and multi-site research program that longitudinally tracks the health of agricultural workers will be described and recent pesticide-related findings will be presented. The presentation will also describe its plans for the future, and the challenges of both this study and of detecting associations between pesticide exposures and illness. A CDC-funded environmental health effects tracking effort in New York City will be described, emphasizing sources of hazard, exposure and health outcomes data, their linkage, intended reports and anticipated public and scientific benefit. Each of the presentations will address the strengths and limitations of its approach to improving national and local pesticide-related surveillance and etiologic understanding.

Learning Objectives:

After attending this session, the participant will be able to:
1. Distinguish and describe examples of surveillance and research efforts to understand the impact of pesticides on human health
2. Identify advantages and limitations inherent in each approach
3. Describe inadequacies of existing pesticide related data collection efforts, and describe proposals to improve these systems.